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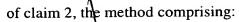
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- An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1,
- b) a naturally occurring amino acid sequence having at least 80% sequence identity to an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1,
- c) a biologically active fragment of an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - d) an immunogenic fragment of an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1.
 - 2. An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.
 - 3. An antibody of claim 2, wherein the antibody is linked to a reporter molecule.
- 4. A composition comprising the antibody of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
- 5. The antibody of claim 2, wherein the antibody is an antagonist of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 6. A method of preparing a polyclonal antibody with the specificity of an antibody of claim 2, the method comprising:
- a) immunizing an animal with a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or an immunogenic fragment thereof, under conditions suitable for eliciting an antibody response,
 - b) isolating antibodies from the animal, and
 - c) screening the isolated antibodies with the polypeptide, thereby identifying a polyclonal antibody which specifically binds to the polypeptide.
 - 7. An antibody produced by the method of claim 6.
 - 8. A method of preparing a monoclonal antibody with the specificity of an antibody

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- a) immunizing an animal with a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or an immunogenic fragment thereof, under conditions suitable for eliciting an antibody response,
 - b) isolating antibody-producing cells from the animal,
- c) fusing the antibody-producing cells with immortalized cells in culture to form monoclonal antibody-producing hybridoma cells,
 - d) culturing the hybridoma cells, and
- e) isolating from the culture monoclonal antibodies which specifically bind to the polypeptide.
 - 9. An antibody produced by the method of claim 8.
 - 10. An antibody of claim 2, wherein the antibody is:
 - a) a chimeric antibody,
 - b) a single chain antibody,
 - c) a Fab fragment, or
 - d) a F(ab')₂ fragment.
- 20 11. An antibody of claim 10, wherein the antibody is produced by screening a Fab expression library.
 - 12. An antibody of claim 10, wherein the antibody is produced by screening a recombinant immunoglobulin library.

13. A method for detecting a polypeptide of claim 1 in a sample, the method comprising:

- a) combining the sample with an antibody which specifically binds to the polypeptide under conditions suitable for specific binding between the antibody and the polypeptide, and
- b) detecting specific binding, wherein specific binding indicates the presence of the polypeptide in the sample.

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- 14. A method of purifying a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: from a sample, the method comprising:
- a) combining the antibody of claim 2 with the sample under conditions suitable for formation of a complex between the antibody and the polypeptide,
 - b) isolating the complex formed between the antibody and the polypeptide, and
- c) recovering the polypeptide by isolating the polypeptide from the antibody under conditions suitable for disruption of the complex formed between the antibody and the polypeptide.
 - 15. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 1.
- 16. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a polynucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:2,
- b) a naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to a polynucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:2,
 - c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to a),
 - d) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to b), and
 - e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).
- 17. A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 16, the method comprising:
- a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.
- 18. A method of screening for a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound under

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suitable conditions, and

- b) detecting binding of the polypeptide of claim 1 to the test compound, thereby identifying a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1.
- 19. A method of screening for a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1, said method comprising:
- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound under conditions permissive for the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1,
- b) assessing the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound, and
 - c) comparing the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound with the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the absence of the test compound, wherein a change in the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound is indicative of a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1.
 - 20. A method for assessing foxicity of a test compound, said method comprising:
 - a) treating a biological sample containing nucleic acids with the test compound;
 - b) hybridizing the nucleic acids of the treated biological sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 16 under conditions whereby a specific hybridization complex is formed between said probe and a target polynucleotide in the biological sample, said target polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 16 or fragment thereof;
 - c) quantifying the amount of hybridization complex; and
- d) comparing the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample with the amount of hybridization complex in an untreated biological sample, wherein a difference in the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample is indicative of toxicity of the test compound.

